

2-20-2014

## The Observer

Central Washington University

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# The OBSERVER

[cwuobserver.com](http://cwuobserver.com)  
Vol. 96 No. 6, Feb. 20-26, 2014

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CWUObserver



## FIRE DESTROYS STUDENTS' APARTMENT

TWO CWU STUDENTS  
LOSE EVERYTHING IN  
APARTMENT FIRE  
**PAGE 3**



PHOTO BY JAMIE WINTER



Two-Time ACP Pacemaker Award Finalist

# The OBSERVER

cwuobserver.com

by the students &amp; for the students of CWU

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## WHAT'S UP AT CWU?

Th 2-20

Tea at 3: Dr. Gary Ballou, SURC PIT 3 p.m.  
Outdoor Speaker: Jema Hayes, SURC 202 7 p.m.  
"Slavery by Another Name," Black 150, 6:30 p.m.

F 2-21

Natural Science Seminar, Science 147 4 p.m.  
Showtime at the McConnell Theatre, 7 p.m.

Sa 2-22

3-3 Basketball Tournament, Rec Courts 8:30 p.m.  
Annie Get Your Gun, McConnell Auditorium 7 p.m.  
Lego League State Championship 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Su 2-23

Youth Climbing Program, Climbing Wall, 3p.m.

M 2-24

ASCWU-BOD Public Meeting 7 p.m.  
Thor - Dark World, SURC Theatre 7 & 9:30 p.m.

T 2-25

BOD Fresh Air Forum, SURC Pit 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Sharee Samuels speaks, SURC Ballroom 7:30 p.m.

W 2-26

Translating Military Experience, Library, 4 p.m.  
Percussion Ensemble Concert, McIntyre, 7 p.m.  
CAH Speaker: "Se Los Encargo," Black 151, 4 p.m.

## CORRECTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S ISSUE

- The Observer would like to apologize for an incorrect quote in "Same Sex Couples in Ellensburg." The quote, by Michelle Adams, should have read that she was outed by her ex-husband, not that she was forced out of the marriage.
- In the article on aviation, we should have indicated that it was Midstate Aviation, not Central which announced last summer that it would not continue the contract.



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# Fire destroys students' apartment

BY JOHN JORDAN  
Staff Reporter  
PATIENCE COLLIER  
News Editor

Last Wednesday, a fire broke out in two Central students' off-campus apartment at about 5 p.m.

The start of the fire is still a question that authorities are asking themselves. There is a possibility that one of the residents may have left a candle burning in the apartment.

The residents, Ashley Saracino and Lindsey Licht, are currently staying with some friends, according to Danielle Brandli, who has started an account on the site GoFundMe to raise money to help replace their possessions.

Kirtinas County Fire Chief John Sinclair said that some of the smoke detectors in that building were not on or had malfunctioned.

According to Sinclair, firefighters arrived on the scene shooting a hose line into the bedroom to convert the water into steam and put out the fire.

"It was a significant fire involved in the room of origination," Sinclair explained.

Brandli confirmed that the fire started in Saracino's bedroom, but all the rooms in the apartment were affected.

"The fire started in Ashley's room, so pretty much all her stuff is toast," Brandli said.

The downstairs of the apartment, although less directly touched by the fire, had serious water damage from the fire hoses, Brandli said, meaning that most of the possessions from that area were also unable to be recovered.

Sinclair said the fire department urges all residents to routinely check their smoke detectors.

"If your smoke detector isn't working then you should first contact the property management; if you don't find satisfaction there, then please contact us," Sinclair said. "We will ensure that you get a smoke detector."

The management of the building had no comment on the incident.

A firefighter on the scene asked the two residents about the possible causes of the fire," Sinclair said. "We found out that one of the residents may have left some candles in the window sill, which could be knocked over because her dog likes to get up on the window sill and watch her leave, knocking the candles down."

According to Brandli, Saracino was only able to recover one laundry basket of

## Smoke Detectors

- The Ellensburg Fire Department will provide smoke detectors to residents who need and cannot get them
- (509) 933-7232 is the number for smoke detectors

clothes from her room, and Licht also had serious damage to her possessions.

"Lindsey's room was covered with smoke and ash ... so most of her belongings are going to have to be replaced as well," Brandli said.

According to Brandli, there has been a lot of enthusiasm to help the residents replace their possessions. Over \$1,000 has been raised so far.

"It's pretty great to see all the support that people have given them," Brandli said.

Kaylee Regier, another resident in the apartment complex, said the response was quick, but the fire was coming out of the apartment windows before it was contained.

"They put it out pretty quick, but it started up again along the gutters," Regier said. "It was pretty scary."

According to Regier, the residents in other nearby buildings were not evacuated, but most residents left their apartments to watch the fire.

Authorities have ruled out the possibility of an electrical problem. An investigator was called in after the fire was extinguished, which allowed the investigator to see if it was caused by a candle or electrical issues.

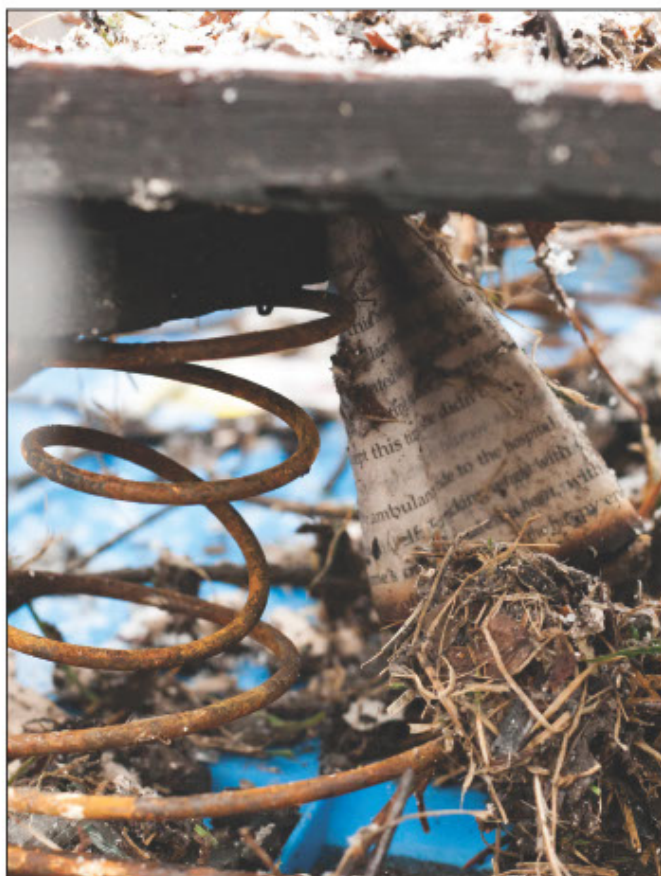
One of the residents explained that she had a surge protector (a device that allows multiple plug ins), which could have been a cause.

All agree that the cause of the fire is still unknown, but they do believe that candles are the best plausible reason.

Sinclair strongly recommends these things to people in order to prevent tragedies like this.

"We had a triple fatality fire here a couple of years ago, where the smoke detector had been disabled by the people living there, and there was no battery in the smoke detector," Sinclair said.

Sinclair urges all to be checking their smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors on a regular basis for safety.



JAMIE WINTER/OBSERVER

**UGLY AFTERMATH** Saracino and Licht did not have renter's insurance and have lost everything in their apartment to the fire. Friends have stepped in to help them out.

## New code restricts carnivals

BY BARBARA LEWIS  
Staff Reporter

Ellensburg City Council recently made some changes to the city code, which has made it complicated for a carnival to come into town.

"The new code really restricted it," Dan Valoff, community development senior planner, said. "We really didn't want to be so heavily handed when it came to something fun like this."

The code prior to the changes would not have restricted the areas the carnival could be located. Companies that wanted to host a carnival only would have needed to obtain a business license and a temporary use permit.

Because of the development code update, carnivals can now only be located on public reserve land, and there are now restrictions preventing them on commercial or residential zones.

"We haven't had anybody wanting to do a carnival or anything like this... going outside of the fairgrounds, so it's never really been an issue," Lance Bailey, community development planning supervisor, said.

Budler Amusements wrote a letter to the city council requesting that they change the code so they can hold a carnival on the commercial zone they have a lease for.

"The city representative that we've been dealing with have been very cooperative," Richard Byrum, vice president of Budler Amusements, said.

City council sent that request to the planning department and asked them to consider Budler Amusements' request and

write a recommendation.

Currently, the planning commission is coming up with that recommendation. They will present their information on March 3 during a public hearing.

"We're trying to change the rules so it'll work," Valoff said.

In last week's Planning Commission meeting, the planning department decided to recommend that the council allow carnivals on all commercial zones as long as the companies go through the process of getting a temporary use permit through community development.

Community Development makes sure there will not be any issues with the fire and police department, and the city will still have some oversight of the events.

City council will have the final say as to whether or not the changes to the code will be made and whether they exclusively follow the planning department's advice, follow only parts or reject it.

If the city council follows the recommendation, the carnival will go through previous protocol, creating an opportunity for other carnivals to follow suit and allowing the potential for future issues.

Bailey said that the public reserve areas, such as the rodeo grounds and the university, are more suited to deal with the impacts that carnivals cause.

"If we don't approve it, then they don't really have a location to go," Bailey said.

If the changes are approved, the carnival would be located on University Way.

"They're a city that hopefully we'll get a chance to work with," said Richard Byrum, VP of Budler Amusements.

## Real Hope act passes in Wash.

BY AARON KUNKLER  
Staff Reporter

The Washington state legislature recently approved a piece of legislation known as the REAL Hope Act, a state-tailored version of the Dream Act.

On a national level, the Dream Act is a bipartisan legislative effort designed to provide temporary legal status for young people living in America who are technically illegal immigrants.

Two key provisions address a path to citizenship, as well as allow students who have graduated high school earlier access to higher education.

The Washington version, as it was passed, does not address citizenship but allows undocumented students to receive education grants.

While it passed the House easily enough, there was projected resistance

### SEE RELATED STORY ON P.5

to the bill in the Republican controlled Senate; however, that opposition was reversed by a 35-10 vote with bipartisan cooperation.

Representative Holmquist Newbury of Washington's 13th district, which includes Kirtinas county, is one of those who is dissatisfied.

In a press release issued by her office, Newbury was skeptical that this will bring any real change.

"It is unwise to add new students to the state needs grant pool, when there are already 32,000 eligible students who qualify for a grant, but don't receive one due to lack of funding," she said in the release. "The five million dollars added by the REAL Hope Act would provide grants for 1100 students at most."



# Love in the Pleistocene

BY MIKAILA WILKERSON  
Staff Reporter

Central students and community members gathered in Dean Hall on Thursday to hear Joe Lorenz give a lecture on whether Neanderthals and humans had bred.

Lorenz, a biological anthropology professor, said that evidence has now been provided showing there was interbreeding between Neanderthals and early modern humans.

"I thought about it first last year when last year's theme was love, sex and evolution," Lorenz said.

Lorenz, who began teaching biological anthropology at Central in the fall of 2008,

gave a lecture entitled 'Love in the time of the Pleistocene' on Thursday, which was about what Neanderthals might have been like during their time on earth and whether they had bred with humans. Lorenz also discussed, based on scientific evidence, that Neanderthals were a lot like us as modern-day people.

"I think one of the take-home points will be that there is evidence now that there was some interbreeding between

Neanderthal populations and modern human populations," Lorenz said.

Within his lecture, Lorenz talked about the physical characteristics of Neanderthals. Neanderthals seemed to have had sloping foreheads, bigger noses and larger eyebrow structure than modern humans.

Lorenz said there is a lot of speculation among people whether Neanderthals are, in fact, related to us or if they are an entirely separate species with no ancestral background connected to us.

Lorenz explained whether or not Neanderthals and humans had interbred has been widely addressed by experts. For a long time, Lorenz said, it was thought that Neanderthals were a species completely separate from humans.

Due to this, it was thought that humans and Neanderthals could not have interbred.

"Now, with these new techniques we have, we're actually able to look at the DNA," Lorenz said. "We can get DNA from Neanderthal remains and we can compare that DNA to modern human DNA."

Mark Auslander, director of the Mu-

**"We can get DNA from Neanderthal remains and we can compare that DNA to modern human DNA."**

-Joe Lorenz

Professor of biological anthropology



AMBER WOOD/OBSERVER

**GROWTH OF A SPECIES** Lorenz talks about humans and Neanderthals breeding. DNA studies have linked the species homo sapiens with Neanderthal backgrounds.

seum of Culture and Environment, said that these sorts of lectures raise fascinating questions.

"This is as close to time travel as we could ever do," Auslander said.

Many people were in attendance at the talk, and some questions arose from the crowd as to what sort of things Neanderthals did.

Lorenz said Neanderthals were very much like humans in that they lived in families or groups. This was proven when multiple Neanderthals were found near each other in excavation sites.

Evidence also suggests that Neanderthals performed burials and may have had shorter childhoods than modern humans.

"I liked how he gave a lot of back-

ground information for people who don't know much about the subject," Anne Parfitt, a senior anthropology and archaeology major, said.

According to Auslander, people wonder how the human species survived and the Neanderthals did not.

Lorenz explained that as the human species progressed, Neanderthals were unable to compete with humans.

Auslander said it is unknown what the human species was like during that time.

"It was just cool to see how it all began," Joey Wayman, a senior and biology major, said.

This lecture, according to Auslander, can help students examine what it means to be human.

## what is ESC?

### The Equity and Services Council

(ESC) staff is committed to promoting and fostering student diversity, community service, and student equality.

### ESC ORGANIZATION SHOWCASE:

## EQUALITY THROUGH QUEERS AND ALLIES (EQUAL)

EQuAL is a safe space, where no assumptions are made, and everyone is welcome regardless of their background, identity, ability or status. EQuAL is a place on campus to build community, focus on diversity and social justice, and promote political change. We are an organization that seeks to create a safe space for all students, staff, faculty, and community members. We regularly engage in educational as well as social programming and hold regular meetings that all are welcome to attend. We are driven by a desire to see all of our community members feeling safe, recognized and celebrated.

#### UPCOMING EVENT:

EQuAL will be having a fun game night on February 21st from 7-9pm in SURC 137 A&B! Come join us for Bunko, Cards Against Humanity, Quelf and much, much more! Food and fun will be provided. For more information, visit [facebook.com/CWUEQUAL](http://facebook.com/CWUEQUAL).

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EQuAL Meets Tuesday night at 7pm in SURC 301  
ESC General Meetings are Mondays at 4pm at SURC 202



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# Real Hope Act passes legislature

State bill adds \$5 million to aid pool, allows undocumented students to apply

BY COLT SWEETLAND &  
AARON KUNKLER  
Staff Reporters

On Feb. 18, the Washington state legislature passed a state version of the DREAM Act, the Real Hope Act, which allows undocumented students who were raised in Washington to receive financial aid to study at universities in the state.

The original version of the bill had failed last year, according to Linda Schachtler, Central's chief of staff, because it added students to the pool of financial aid without adding funding.

The Real Hope Act fixed that problem by adding \$5 million to the state need grant. The act was passed in the Washington state senate with bipartisan support, and with the help of students and staff here at Central, who raised awareness and support for the bill.

Schachtler said that Central staff, including Central President James Gaudino, has been standing in support of the bill since the beginning.

"Any time the state creates new opportunity by providing more financial aid support, we're for that," Schachtler said.

In order to qualify for financial aid under the REAL Dream Act, applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements,

such as having lived in Washington state for three years before receiving their high school diploma. The bill has not yet provided a way for undocumented students without a social security number to apply for financial aid, according to Schachtler, but that will be fixed.

According to Cassie DuBore, vice president for Legislative Affairs, and a political science major, there are many people who

“Any time the state creates new opportunity by providing more financial aid support, we’re for that.”

—Linda Schachtler  
Central chief of staff.

While some representatives may remain skeptical of the effects which this bill may have, Governor Jay Inslee expressed his excitement on the matter. Inslee said that Washington should make every effort to encourage higher education for all state residents, he stated in an official release.

"Too many promising young Washingtonians aren't able to realize their full potential because the financial burden of going to college is too great. We are now poised to take action on the Dream Act and remove that barrier for our aspiring citizens," Inslee's statement said.

Students at Central were determined to raise awareness about the act to their senators.

"We had laptops set up for students in the SURC, so they could send a pre-drafted e-mail to their senators," DuBore said.

On Feb. 14, 60 students at Central took a trip to Olympia to thank their senators and representatives.

"It's going to be a big day for us to say 'Hey we really appreciate that you did this for students,' because it's important to thank them before we make more big asks from them," DuBore said.

Miriam Bocchetti, director of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at Central, said since CAMP is a federally funded program, they could not help students who were not eligible to receive financial aid.

"Those students, once they become eligible for different things and start getting their social security numbers, will become eligible to participate in CAMP now that the [Real Hope] Act has been passed," Bocchetti said.

According to Bocchetti, one of the main difficulties so far in reaching out to potential students is that many of them are first generation students, and that is a big transition for them.

"Some of them will fill out the application and be eligible and then they just don't want to come," Bocchetti said.

According to Schachtler, Central does not track undocumented students, and there is currently no way for them to apply for need grants at all.

"The Washington Student Achievement Council will be the entity that really is going to develop rules for how these students are supposed to get that money," Schachtler said.

Celina Venegas, a Central graduate student who is pursuing a master's degree in industrial engineering

“The [Real Hope] Act helps those students who felt like they didn’t have an opportunity to go to college, or students who felt like high school was the last step they were going to take.”

—Celina Venegas  
Master's student, industrial engineering tech

technology, and is a former CAMP member, said the act is a great opportunity for high school students.

Venegas, who is a first generation student, said it is difficult for new students to get out of their comfort zones.

"The [Real Hope] Act helps those students who felt like they didn't have an opportunity to go to college, or students who felt like high school was the last step they were going to take," Venegas said.

Washington will be the fourth state to pass this act. Although the bill has not yet finished, Inslee is expected to sign it into law this session.

## BOD President considers creating Central car contract

Rental company would give students increased motor mobility

BY JACK JOHANNESSEN  
Staff Reporter

The Central board of directors is working to bring a car rental service to Central in 2014.

"They offer the rental cars to people who are 18 or older, which is different from typical rental car services where you have to be 25 or older," said Bryan Elliott, president of the Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors (ASCU-BOD).

The ASCU-BOD passed a resolution to support establishing Zipcar at Central.

Central's board of directors supports that decision as, but there are conditions, according to Elliott.

Zipcar wants to be sure it is the only

company providing its service in a given area.

One of the stipulations for Zipcar, there can be no direct competition, so there can be no Central Washington University or Ellensburg city services similar to Zipcar, according to Elliott.

Elliott met with Ron Oridlebaugh, director of economic development at the Ellensburg chamber of commerce.

Oridlebaugh checked with local businesses to ensure they did not have an interest in providing similar services like Zipcar's.

Other challenges to Zipcar's arrival at Central include liability and insurance issues, according to Elliott.

"I think as long as people were responsible, it would be a good way to deal with parking," Elissa Smith, a junior elementary education major said.

According to Smith, Zipcar at Central would be convenient and helpful if a stu-

dent needed to rent a car in an emergency or needs groceries. Smith was not allowed to have her own car when she was at Western.

According to Milo Castilleja, freshman film and video studies major, Zipcar would be useful for students who do not have a vehicle on campus but need transportation.



Castilleja also thought the service could help to encourage greater attendance at Central.

"I think it would be a pretty cool service," Castilleja said.

"It's convenient if you are going to Seaside or something," Rylan Spencer, a senior economics major, said.

Spencer said he can walk or ride a bike around Ellensburg, and doesn't see the point in renting a car just to walk around Ellensburg.

"Ellensburg is an easy town to walk around," Spencer said.

According to Morgen Cheng, a junior finance and supply chain management major, he would not want to be a member of Zipcar to rent a vehicle but thinks it would be nice for those who do not have a car.

If Zipcar is brought to Central, Zipcar would start by providing two cars available for students to rent, and there would be a wait list for people who want to rent a vehicle.

If demand is higher than expected for car rentals, Zipcar is able to provide the university with more cars, according to Elliott.

One of the two initial vehicles would be a larger car or SUV.

Having at least one SUV is appropriate for Ellensburg weather conditions and local activities such as snow and hiking, according to Elliott.



## Can I work in, bro?

### The seven unspoken rules of the weight room.



BY CAMILLE BORODETZ / ASST SCENE EDITOR

**Rule 1: Just because you sweat on a machine doesn't mean it's yours.**

About a month ago, I walked over to the empty lat pull-down machine only to have a guy charge at me, proclaiming he had two sets left. He then proceeded to complete a set, walk over to another machine and do a set on that machine. In the time he took to do those sets, I easily could have finished using the lat pull-down. I understand you cannot always work in (a term used when you wish to share a machine or piece of equipment with someone) on certain machines, like the squat rack and bench press, where you would have to constantly load and unload weight plates. But with machines like the lat pull down, where all you need to do to increase or decrease the weight is change the stopper, there's no reason to be greedy.

**Rule 2: Do not be afraid to ask others to work in.**

Instead of being the awkward person who stands and stares until the machine this person wants is free, simply just ask for a turn. During crowded hours, the weight room can be an intimidating environment. I know it's a common stereotype that bodybuilders/weightlifters are "douches," but I find fit people are actually pretty friendly and accommodating. It's all the endorphins!

**Rule 3: Let people work in.**  
This rule is kind of related to rule No. 1. On several occasions when I have asked people to work in, their response has been "I have this many sets left." This response makes me want to scream, "That's not what I asked!" Remember there is only a limited amount of equipment. I know it can be really nice to have a machine to yourself, but the gym is a public place, and if you're not going to be flexible, maybe you should work out at home.

**Rule 4: It doesn't take five people to complete one set.**  
I get that a lot of people dislike working

out alone, and if you're going to lift heavy, you're going to need a spotter. But five people crowding around one machine not only causes traffic, but also prevents others from using a machine. If five people use one machine, and they each do an average of three sets, that's 15 sets. If you're going to work out in large groups, split up. You'll not only save yourself time but you'll also keep machines open for other people. If you feel the need to travel in large packs, you may need to sort out your gym priorities.

**Rule 5: Machines are for lifting, not for texting.**

A lot of people tend to have this territorial fear that the equipment they are using will disappear if they do not guard it. If you're not doing your set, get off of the machine. Did you come to the gym to workout or to text? Use your trips to the gym as an opportunity to take a break from outside communication and focus on your well being. I promise, Snapchat will be there when you're done working out.

**Rule 6: Do not talk to me while I'm in the middle of my set.**

Last year, a recreation center trainer actually tried to argue with my boyfriend about how I was spotting him while he was performing the incline shoulder press. I found it very unprofessional that this

trainer actually thought it was appropriate to argue with my boyfriend while he had two 100-pound dumbbells over his shoulders. Unless you see someone in immediate danger of hurting him or herself, your criticism can wait. It's extremely distracting and straight up dangerous when you have a heavy bar on your chest, and someone is trying to have a conversation with you about that English paper you wrote last week. No matter if you are asking to work in, asking for advice or simply wanting to make small talk, be courteous and wait until they are done with their set to engage in conversation.

**Rule 7: Remember ladies, the weight room isn't just for guys.**

For girls, the Central weight room can be extremely scary for the male-to-female ratio is rather uneven. If your reasons for straying away from the weights are "It's a guy thing," or "I don't want to get big," you may want to do some research. Women do not produce the same amount of testosterone as men do. Your size is mostly determined by your diet, not your exercise routine. I'm all for a steady cardio routine, but strength training is equally important. Actually, weight lifting has a ton of health benefits and can help improve your overall strength and endurance. So, ladies, do not leave the strength training to men — we can be strong too!

## It's not as funny as you think



BY AUSTIN LUFT / COPY EDITOR

Laugh tracks drive me nuts.

They are annoying, overused, distracting and really take me out of the moment. They are a thinly veiled tactic by TV networks to trick people into thinking that their shows are funnier than they really are.

Some people argue that adding laughter makes it feel more like a stage performance, but they are so wrong. Reactions to stage performances are usually genuine, and the performers don't pause for the audience and make the whole thing feel cheap.

Laugh tracks make me feel like the show creators assume everyone is stupid. I don't like that. Especially because most of the jokes are so predictable and the laughter that follows is not proportional at all.

I seriously doubt that a whole audience has ever burst into laughter because a fat guy farted in a UPS truck.

Pretty much any laugh track that you hear today consists almost solely of dead people. They were recorded in the 1940s and 1950s during a transition between live-performance television and closed-set television.

Seriously, does anybody really feel like they are necessary?

Also, they are usually used in sitcoms. Situational comedies! What situation have you ever been in where you had to pause your conversation to let an audience laugh? Or have you ever heard a symphony of "ooh's" after an awkward first kiss? These things don't happen!

If your life is that interesting then please let me hang out with you and see what that's all about.

My biggest issue with canned laughter, however, is that it destroys subtle comedy.

You will never be watching a show that utilizes a laugh track where even a single joke goes unnoticed by that lovely pre-recorded audience.

This is insulting. What if I notice something funny that may not have been intentional? Am I allowed to laugh at that? It makes me pretty uncomfortable when I'm

not laughing at any of the same things that my TV is.

I might be taking it too seriously, but it makes me feel alienated.

Sometimes laugh tracks are supplemental to a live audience.

I'm really not sure if this is better or worse than a fully tracked show.

On one hand, there is a real audience, but on the other, they clearly aren't as entertained as the show creators would like them to be: Deception doesn't win anybody over.

The overuse of laugh tracks makes me a little worried too.

Now, I'm not trying to insult anybody who likes a show with a laugh track — you're entitled to have bad opinions — but I do want to point something out.

Next time you are watching a sitcom, pay attention to what happens on screen during big laugh breaks: Everyone just stops. Pay attention to the individual laughs and you will notice how out of place they are.

It's nothing but random witch cackles and Seth Rogen chuckles played at varying, inconsistent volumes. It doesn't sound remotely realistic, and it's worrisome to me that so many people are fooled by them.

I have a lot to say about this topic because I end up in this debate pretty often, as I am in the vast minority somehow.

Almost invariably, "How I Met Your Mother" comes up every time and I have no idea why. This show has an absolutely astounding following, so let me try to mess that up.

This show is the worst culprit of laugh track overuse out of any show I have ever watched. I wrote this entire article (other than the UPS part) with that show in mind. There is no subtlety, no thoughts provoked, no empty space and no chance for the audience to make their own decision about what they think is funny before they are forcefully shovel-fed canned laughter.

They are out dated, over-used, poorly orchestrated and a general bummer to listen to. I really hope I was able to ruin a few shows for you. Dumb viewers perpetuate dumb content.

## The 21-run: It's not about you



BY DANIEL VELASQUEZ / COPY EDITOR

Glazed eyes, meaningless speech and two left feet: The result of a "successful" 21-run.

Turning 21 is the start of a new chapter in one's life but requires a memorable (or rather unmemorable) initiation. Unfortunately, for all those turning 21, the celebration is more fun for those who have already paid their dues.

Recalling back to the last few hours before I was officially of age to buy my first legal drink, I was having the time of my life. Surrounded by good music, good food and even better friends, this is how I pictured my 21-run playing out.

Unfortunately, my friends had other plans.

Midnight was in sight and this would mark the start of a new era.

My friends had always reminded me how great it was to be 21, and my time was finally here.

It was midnight at last. I could officially walk into a bar (in the United States) and have no worries. If I were to tell you that I wasn't nervous, I'd be lying. Adrenaline pumping in full force, my friends and I headed to the bar.

As one could guess, this is when the drinks started to flow like the Nile River, and the idea of maintaining sobriety drifted further away. Rather than remembering each individual drink for its unique taste, the process of drinking at the bar was comparable to mixing every drink at

a soda fountain and drinking it all at once.

Before I knew it, the following morning had arrived, and my head felt like a balloon that had far too much air.

Although I felt and looked like a zombie, I made it through the night without too many problems and my 21-run was history.

People may wonder how this could possibly be enjoyable. In all honesty, it's not — at least for the first night of being 21.

There's a point in the night where you go from hero to zero, and there isn't much you can do about it, other than wait for the after effects to end the following day.

We need to break away from the idea that a "successful" 21-run equates to the birthday person feeling like death for the next couple days. I think that if they are your "real" friends, they will stand by you not wanting to get super drunk. If not, then you may want to re-evaluate your circle of friends.

A 21-run should be about going out, having a few drinks and making an experience you can remember. Surely, this is something I wish I could have been a part of.

Instead, most of the memories I have of my 21st birthday is how much pain I was in after it was all done. Fortunately, we have the power to make our own decisions and the choice of drinking heavily or not is yours.

After experiencing my 21-run, I am glad to say that it is behind me and I can say that I have no intentions of recreating that night — ever.

## NEED TO RANT OR RAVE?



Tweet your screams and shouts about CWU to @CWUobserver with the hashtag #CWyourant



## CRITICS CORNER

## Movie review: August: Osage County

“I thought we were having a funeral dinner, not a cockfight.”

BY COLLIN DYSART  
Copy Editor

There are certain films which reek of a group of people who sat in a room and asked themselves: How do we win a few more Oscars? August: Osage County is one such film.

First, take a Pulitzer and Tony award winning stage play. Check! Assemble some Hollywood vanguards i.e. Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts. Check! Add in a desolate setting with every cliché of the domestic drama, and, viola, good cinema. But even with the best ingredients, the cake does not always rise.

Welcome to the Westin's. A family so consumed in its resentment towards its own members you wonder why in god's name they continue with this charade.

Violet, as portrayed by Streep, is a wretched piece of work, plain and simple. She is consumed by intensely fostered bitterness, which propels her through her days and is also killing her, by feeding into a drug addiction.

After her husband disappears, Violet calls her offspring back home to a place



that they all seem ready to leave to ancient history. Then, like dominos, the secrets, lies, resentments, and tears come out. I guess they cut the scene where everyone took truth serum on the way back from the funeral.

Tracy Letts's plays have seen better film adaptations. Bug and Killer Joe both benefited from not taking their swampy trashy settings too seriously.

Here we have a film so wrapped up in the gravitas of its issues and morals, it fails to give its laundry list of issues any real weight and meaning beyond screaming hysterics.

The formless shape of the stage play works for a medium without the luxury of cuts, but here drags along and permits little to no resolution. The abundant cast is each, with the exception of Streep and Roberts, only allowed a scene to spit out some archaic moral statement i.e. “I live somewhere in the gray zone,” and exit offscreen, never to return again.

The film, for all its faults, packs some powerful and incredible moments. At the funeral dinner, Violet, in a drug and grief induced state, has all she can handle of the forced formalities of the family and releases a diatribe upon her three daughters.

Embedded within her venomous words, Streep masterfully conveys her ravenous emotional damage and is permitted some penance for doing what she thought was best in adverse circumstances. And like so many tragic moments her truthful words fall on smug deaf ears.

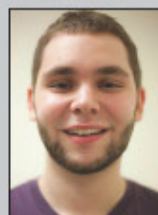
Another surprise of the film is Julia Roberts' performance as the eldest child, Barbara. Barbara has had just about all she can handle of her family and the one she has created. Roberts does a commendable job of conveying a life in bitterness, she is not afraid to let the lines and dark circles around her eyes do some talking.

One wonders if Barbara is starting to understand how quickly she is becoming her mother. Apples and trees. Roberts' also gets the best line in the movie. During a scene where she is failing to keep her sister from self destructing, Barbara doing everything in her power to provoke her mother screams aloud, “eat the fish, bitch!” Priceless.

Ultimately, the assembled whole fails to congeal up anything but angstiness for the end credits. The film would have benefited immensely from some judicious cuts to the original. It wants too many things. And it's a shame because there are some good morsels to be had.

## Video game review: DEVICE6

“A game ... or a test. A test? Yes. Surely a test.”

BY ADAM WILSON  
Scene Editor

A couple of weeks ago I explained in an editorial why I don't like Flappy Bird (long story short: it's too simple). In that editorial I talked about DEVICE6, another mobile

game that, in my opinion, is what mobile game developers should aim for in their products.

It's strange for me to recommend mobile games to people looking for something narrative-heavy, but the four-dollar indie title hooked me harder than most games ever could.

The plot revolves around a young woman named Anna. She wakes up inside of a castle on a remote island, with no idea how she got there or for what purpose.

Unlike most people in this situation, Anna is about as calm as could be. In fact, she immediately thinks it's a clever prank - a prank that quickly goes too far.

The story is told as an element of the game play. The entire game is text, but it's not just a book. As Anna walks down hallways, goes up ladders or whatever she may be doing at that point in the story, the

player has to flip their phone around to be able to continue reading and advancing the text.

Each of the game's six chapters are essentially maps of the environments Anna finds herself in, detailed through creative dialogue and topped off with occasional images and sound effects. These aesthetics, particularly the sound mixing, provide a haunting atmosphere to the game's already creepy text.

In order to advance through each chapter, Anna (and the player) has to solve a riddle, using the hints dropped throughout the section's text.

An early riddle requires talking to three bear statues in a missile silo, each of which leave Anna a password, along with a horrifying message such as “We're on to you, you little scum,” and sounds of gunfire and explosions.

The mystery keeps getting deeper as Anna moves through the island and castle, with stranger and more horrifying imagery being introduced.

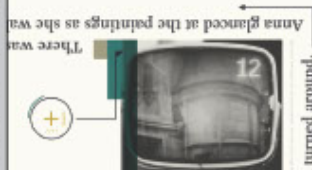
One sequence includes Anna walking through a room of mutilated mannequins, while another has a meadow full of hypnotized sheep.

While it isn't torture porn by any stretch of the imagination, the psychological toll on Anna is very noticeable. She has moments of terror, but these moments are quickly replaced by aggression and a false sense of courage.

What makes DEVICE6 especially interesting is that Anna's perspective is only half of the story. The game's namesake, the Device 6, is a plot element seen only by the player during their text navigation.

Without spoiling anything, once the Device's relevance to Anna is revealed, it adds a whole new layer of complexity to the plot, whether Anna realizes it or not.

Simogo, developer of DEVICE6, has been making mobile games since 2010, and their knowledge of platform is obvious. The developers utilize the phone to the fullest extent they can, and what they produced is a fantastic example of game-play as narrative. For four dollars and a little less than a gigabyte of phone storage, it's definitely worth a play through.



Anna was facing a huge steel door, that looked decidedly out of place and more fitting to some kind of bomb shelter. In front of it was a screen apparently displaying the output of a security camera. With no handle, she pushed herself against the door, even though she knew it would not budge.

She took a few steps back and turned around.



She browsed the bookshelf. It was full of books about chemistry, mechanics, physics and mathematics. They were all out of date, just like everything else in the room. A calendar on the wall claimed that it was September 1946.

A museum then?  
That would explain a lot.

She left the room.



# Boots 'n' Cats advances to semifinals

## Central's newest a cappella group takes second at ICCAs

BY ADAM WILSON  
Scene Editor

A new a cappella startup Boots 'n' Cats beat out eight of its nine competitors last weekend to take second place at The International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella regional competition last weekend at Pacific Lutheran University.

The group qualified to compete in the ICCA Semifinals in April, making the first time a Central group has done so since the competition began in 1996.

"It was a validation of all the sacrifices all the risks that we took," Nicole Prigge, senior exercise science major, said.

Boots 'n' Cats officially formed and began rehearsing in October 2013, making them one of the youngest groups at the regional competition.

Prigge recalled when, before the award ceremony, a girl from the winning ensemble, HERmonic, asked how old they were, and was shocked when she heard they had only been together for six months.

All 10 ensembles were judged based on elements including vocal performance and choreography. The five judges graded each group out of 155 points, with the top and bottom scores removed from the total.

Boots 'n' Cats scored 361 points. By comparison, HERmonic, from PLU, scored 416 points and Central's Nada Canasta took third with 330 points.

"It wasn't an unfortunate point spread," Prigge said. "I don't think there's a lot of room for disappointment or second guessing, which is nice."

Antonio Fernandez, Boots 'n' Cats' beat boxer, also won an award for best vocal percussionist. Prigge said the judges

praised him in their grading, with one judge commenting that Fernandez "must have some friends in [his] pocket," referring to how he sounds like multiple people.

Though people would tell Fernandez in the days leading up to the ICCAs he would win the award, he didn't believe them until he won.

"It kinda reassured what people were telling me," Fernandez said. "It makes me realize what level I'm at."

Boots 'n' Cats also received praise for their mashup of "Ory Me a River" by Etta James and "Ory Me a River" by Justin Timberlake, which was arranged by music grad student Brennan Baglio. According to Prigge, the judges complimented the arrangement's modern harmonies that set them apart from the other ensembles.

The group's performance was not without problems. Due to issues with the microphone setup, Boots 'n' Cats had to alter all of its choreography, and leave Sarah Hemenway to sing without a microphone.

These problems, Fernandez said, helped the group focus more heavily on their performance.

"We knew we could do our best, and that's what we did," Fernandez said.

Prigge said the best moment of their performance came at the very end during Emily's rap solo from "Victory Lap" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, when Hemenway and Bo Mendez reprised their solos from Sara Bareille's "Brave" and Bruno Mars' "Treasure," respectively.

"It was a summary of everything we had just done," Prigge said.

Boots 'n' Cats is planning a send-off for the ICCA Semifinals that would take place the week of the competition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOOTS 'N' CATS, TAKEN BY GEMMA KORESKE

**BOOTS 'N' CATS** The ensemble includes (top left to bottom right) Aryn Chatterton, Bo Mendez, Ben Lundgren, Sarah Hemenway, Antonio Fernandez, Nicole Prigge and Emily Salisbury

# Hip-hop club wants to spread culture

BY SPENCER BAKER  
Staff Reporter

Central's newest club "Hip-Hop at its Finest" is looking to establish hip-hop culture on campus.

"You don't have to have a talent," Art Nelson, club president and junior Japanese education major, said. "We are a community looking for people that want to know more about the hip-hop community."

The club had its third meeting last Wednesday, and all of the 20 active members are still trying to learn as much as they can about each other. Most of the first three meetings have consisted of "show and tell," so the members can showcase their talents, which include rapping, dancing and art work.

The club's meetings are going to be used mostly to teach the members about the hip-hop culture, but there are sub groups that will focus more on individual talents. The sub groups are art and music, tech, dance and production.

Nelson formed the club because he was tired of rapping in his apartment alone. Nelson has been rapping seriously for two years now and wanted to expand his personal circle of fellow rappers.

"There is another kid in his apartment writing raps, and I want him to have a community to go to," Nelson said. He is hoping that this club can bring the knowledge of hip-hop culture to Central.

While attending multiple events in search for potential members, Nelson found his vice president at "Mr. and Mrs. Central." Albert Calhoun is an undecided major freshman who has been rapping since he was 9 years old.

## Club Info

"Hip-Hop at its Finest" meets every Wednesday in SURC 140 at 5 p.m.

in a city park.

With all of the positive feedback that he got from those two performances, Calhoun realized that rapping is something he can be doing for a long time.

"That and I don't have an athletic bone in my body," Calhoun said.

Calhoun moved from Texas to Washington in June after his father was stationed at Fort Lewis.

Calhoun has recorded about 18 songs since moving here under the stage name Einstein, and he has been working on a mix tape since November. Calhoun is releasing the mix tape on Friday, Feb. 21, titled "The New Equation."

Calhoun's favorite rapper is Childish Gambino "because he does everything I want to do: rap, sing, act and comedy."

"I fit a Drake mold, but I don't want to be held to that box," Calhoun said. He has nothing against Drake; it is just "I pride myself on being versatile."

According to Calhoun, the mix tape is about "looking at past mistakes and starting new."

Calhoun will be handing out mix tapes around campus; it will also be available for free download on DatPiff and Sound-

Cloud did not start seriously rapping until he was in the sixth grade in Texas. He got his start in a talent show at school and won second place. Because of his performance, someone invited him to perform at a barbecue



SARAH RUIZ/OBSERVER

**WE GOT THE BEAT** Tramayne "FA." Bryson performs after stopping by Hip Hop at Its Finest to check it out. His free-style was one he had created years ago.

cloud under the username "Einstein The Mastermind."

"Hip Hop at its Finest" has many more talented people than just Calhoun. Before the meeting, Nelson was introducing himself to new members by free styling to a beat playing.

During the "show and tell" section, Jose Hernandez, junior social work major, showed his clothing line that he started called "Ink 22."

"I try and use the Pacific Northwest in all of my designs," Hernandez says. One of the designs he showed was a painted handprint, with the dripping paint at the bottom forming the Seattle skyline.

After the art show, Tramayne Bryson,

sophomore music major, gave the group a taste of his talents by a spoken word performance.

The group is full of talented people in every aspect of hip-hop culture. At the end of the year, the group plans to use everyone's talents to make an album. The rappers will collaborate to make the songs, the producers are going to make the beats and the artists will make the album cover.

After the group makes the album, they want to throw concerts where the technical group will set up stages, sounds and lights.

"Hip-Hop at its Finest" is a community with multiple talented people that "can change the culture at Central," Nelson said.



# CWU Frat aims for greek system on campus

BY CHELSEA ALEAGA  
Staff Reporter

Central is unique because it doesn't have a Greek system; however, the gentlemen of Kappa Sigma are trying to change that.

"We aren't the stereotypical fraternity," Logan Butterfield, treasurer of Kappa Sigma and math major, said.

Hollywood and major motion pictures have run with the idea that fraternities are full of meathead jocks that party all the time. The boys of Kappa Sigma want to be more than that.

"We do not party every weekend, and we are very much involved with helping the community and becoming better gentlemen," Butterfield said.

Kappa Sigma is nationally known for their Military Heroes Campaign, which goes towards helping the Fisher House. Most of Kappa Sigma's events center around fundraising and philanthropy for various organizations.

With all of the fundraising and bonding the boys of Kappa Sigma are involved in, they don't have time to mess around.

"We have a very high level of respect for each of our members," Maika Matalomani, senior philosophy major, said. "We have a strict no hazing rule to ensure we uphold brotherhood within our fraternity."

The diversity of gentlemen in Kappa Sigma extends from every type of major and entirely different social groups.

"Our diversity is our biggest asset," Rush Chairman Terrell Stephens said. "It allows for a flow of ideas that wouldn't otherwise happen and draws us closer together."

Kappa Sigma could arguably be the most diverse club on campus.

"There is no specific personalities or majors whatsoever," Butterfield said. "We have guys in this group, who are theater majors who are best of friends with chemistry majors. There are guys who lift and work out in the gym that can connect on a social level with the guys who play video games all day."

Currently, Kappa Sigma isn't recognized as a fraternity at Central because the university lacks a formal Greek system. Nationally, they are among over 350 chapters, having been chartered on Nov. 13, 2010.

The hurdle that they are currently fighting is to get a formal Greek system started on campus, paving the way for other fraternities and sororities to colonize and charter," Stephens said.

One of Kappa Sigma's goals is to start a Greek system at Central, but not like the typical Greek systems that are portrayed in the media. The fear is focusing its energy on helping the community and is trying to break the negative stigma of a Greek system on campus.

Diversity is the key word that Kappa Sigma associated themselves with. There isn't a "type" of person who belongs in a fraternity. They want to make that clear.

"We have a pledging process that can last up to 60 days," Cody Gereaux, Grand Procurator and aviation major, said. "It's a long process, but both the pledges, and the brothers, must assess if Kappa Sigma is right for them."

With that being said, the fraternity makes sure that members are fully committed and are determined to prove to the university that a Greek system would benefit campus.

"We are the first and only national fraternity on campus, which gives me a sense of pride knowing that we were the pioneers of the future Greek life at CWU," Gereaux said.

Besides being the first fraternity on campus, Kappa Sigma prides themselves on brotherhood and long-lasting relationships.

"I have a group and friendships I can rely on for the rest of my life," Matalomani said.

Kappa Sigma wants to make a movement of a Greek row at Central. With other club fraternities developing on campus, the idea of brotherhood based on diversity is growing.

"I can't wait to come back in 10 years and see a formal Greek row and the realization that my frat started it all," Stephens said.



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# Stream Club hopes to clean up Kittitas

BY JUSTIN MERRELL  
Staff Reporter

Kittitas County's abundant outdoor recreation activities draw thousands of sportsmen and nature enthusiasts each year. The county has one of the fastest growing populations



in the state, which threatens regional recreational sites and habitats.

The Kittitas County Field and Stream Club, founded in 1919, remains at the vanguard of protecting the county's habitat and recreational areas.

The Kittitas County Field and Stream Club is an all-volunteer, non-profit group with a mission of promoting effective conservation, teaching hunting ethics and good sportsmanship, supporting education to prevent pollution and improving and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities, especially hunting and fishing.

"We care about conservation. That's what we do. You need to be an advocate for what you love," Deborah Eggman, president of the Kittitas County Field and Stream Club, said. "We're all stewards of

this land."

The club's most popular project is the annual Durr Road cleanup near the Yakima River, where old refrigerators, computers and all kinds of trash used for target practice can be found. Last year, more than 100 volunteers picked up over two tons of litter. This year's Durr Road cleanup will happen Saturday, April 19, which Eggman has invited students to attend. Furthermore, she'd love to see Central students become members of the club.

"I absolutely encourage students to join the club. We totally want the

ing.

"I understand that the club had some heartburn with some of the department's positions on different things," Nate Pamplin, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Program at WDFW, said. "I think about [those concerns] and I think, here's a field and stream club, those who represent the core constituents for WDFW... I hope the gesture of me and other staff visiting the club to answer questions shows that we're trying to align with their interests."

Recently, the club has been working with WDFW and state legislators to change the curriculum of

aggregate of 80 years experience who teach over 100 students a year. The club's instructors are most concerned with making sure their graduates understand proper hunting safety.

"We want to make safe hunters. We want to educate people about the outdoors and engage them," Eggman, who's been teaching the class for ten years, said. "We're very involved, we continue to look for projects that are beneficial to wildlife and outdoor recreation."

The club offers a \$1,500 Life Member Scholarship to high school seniors look-

younger generations to understand and share our passion for the outdoors," Eggman said. "We should all be networking; we need each other, so it would be really cool [to have students join]."

The club is actively involved with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) to maintain and improve public access fishing sites and provide input regarding game management and habitat concerns. The department clearly finds credence in the club's voice, which was illustrated by the six WDFW employees present at the department's last meet-

ing the department's Hunter Education Program. Last year, due to changes in the curriculum, the club opted to scrap teaching classes after offering the program for 54 years. The club will resume teaching hunter education classes this year and may expand their program by offering hunter education classes tailored for women.

"We're super excited to get back into the classroom," Lee Davis, former club president, said. "We've talked with the WDFW about what we want back in the program."

The club has five instructors with an

ing to pursue studies in Natural Resource/Wildlife Management. Other activities of the club include acquiring popular waters for public fishing, improving existing fishing sites and providing grain free-of-charge for their Winter Bird Feed project.

Additionally, the club hosts "Eyes in the Woods" training, a WDFW class on how to identify, document and report on natural resource crimes. They also teach Angling (fishing) Education to local youth and support the WDFW's Salmon in the Classroom program.

  
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## The Sexhibition Condom Art Show

BY CAMILLE BORODEY  
Assistant Scene Editor

PHOTOS BY NICK TERREL  
Assistant Photo Editor

Matthew Allen designed a dress out of duct tape, surrounded by condoms. The yellow and blue dress was made to look like Snow White's dress.

"My reasoning behind this was to show that Disney portrays unrealized, unrealistic sexuality in their movies," the information card for the piece read. Five judges voted Allen's piece as best in show.

Allen's piece was part of an exhibit of condom art created by students, on display in The SURO on Tuesday. The Condom Art Show is part of Sex Central,

which celebrates Sexual Responsibility Week and National Condom Month.

The display included 12 different pieces of art, all made by students.

Lianne Nguyen also took the Disney route. In her piece titled "A Different Spin on the Movie 'Up,'" she used condoms to represent the balloons that are connected to the house in the Pixar film "Up."

Veronica Montano researched what different STDs look like under a microscope for her piece. She used the condoms as plasters and painted the condoms to look like simplified versions of what she saw under the microscope. Next to the piece, Montano noted, "The goal of this piece is to serve as a reminder of what you

or your partner could be potentially carrying and how easily it could be contained."

Ana Masters created a very colorful piece titled "Sensual Sea," which won the award for fan favorite of the show. Along with condoms, Masters used pipe cleaners, googly eyes and paint to make her artwork look like an under-the-sea environment.

The Wellness Center is collaborating with Dr. Kimberly McBride to plan a variety of events that educate Central students about sex and sexual health.

Alice Bowman, health educator at the Wellness Center, knows sex isn't always the easiest topic to discuss, and she hopes events like this will make educating students about sex more accessible and fun.



**BELOW** The fan favorite vote went to "Sensual Sea," created by Ana Masters.





BASEBALL

# Wildcats start off season in California

BY QUIN WALKER  
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington baseball team (4-4 overall) embarked on a six-game road trip to the Bay Area of California. The extended weekend included four games against the Urban Knights of The Academy of Art University in Oakland and two make-up games from the previous California trip against the Gators of San Francisco State.

The Wildcats, who make a California trip every year, wanted a strong start to the season after going 2-6 in their trip last season.

The trip started out smoothly; an offensive output of 11 runs in their first game against the Urban Knights. The Wildcats were led by a stellar performance by junior pitcher Brandon Williams on the mound. Williams pitched seven innings, allowing seven hits and tallying seven strikeouts and zero earned runs, giving him his second win of the season. Williams looks to be a key addition to the rotation after transferring from Washington State University.

An offensive star in the game was junior third baseman Kasey Bielec, who was a perfect 3-3 with a home run and an RBI. Senior first baseman Josh Potter also contributed 3 RBIs in the 11-0 Wildcats win.

In the second game of the series, the Wildcats were again blessed with a solid pitching performance from senior Sky Adams. Adams threw seven innings, allowing seven hits, and had eight strikeouts while allowing two runs, notching his first win of the season.

The Wildcats also gave Adams some run support, scoring six runs in a team effort where four players tallied an RBI. The other two runs were scored off errors by the Urban Knight defense. In total, the Urban Knights had six errors and their pitching staff allowed six walks. Towards the end of the game, junior Cory Welch threw a perfect final two innings, earning himself his first save of the season.

Strong pitching has benefited the Wildcats throughout the preseason.

"Oh I love it, especially if they are producing ground balls and making everybody active," senior shortstop Joel Johnson said. "It definitely keeps us on our toes and makes the game feel a lot faster."

The third game of the series saw some fight in the Urban Knights. The Wildcats started the game with five runs in the first inning including a Bielec home run, his second of the season. While there were some bright spots in the first inning, the Wildcats could only muster up one more run throughout the rest of the game. The Urban Knights scored two runs in each of the first four innings, resulting in an 8-6 win.

Bielec's weekend performance earned him Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Week. He went 6-13 with two home runs, four RBIs and five runs scored over the weekend.

The Wildcats finished their series out strong against the Urban Knights, thanks to the anchor of the rotation, senior Stuart Fewel. Fewel threw a complete game, going nine innings allowing only one run on nine hits and six strikeouts, for his first

**"We got some things done but in terms of wins and losses it was disappointing. We were in every game due to pitching and defense. In terms of offense, we are not there yet."**

**-Desi Storey**  
Head coach

better of the Wildcats this time. The Gators won the first game 4-3 and the second game 3-2 in 12 innings.

The challenge of a six-game road trip really took a toll on the Wildcats.

"It was disappointing we couldn't get more done offensively. We had some spurts of some good things, but when we needed a big hit or big play we fell just short," Johnson said. "Those are the type of things that wear on a team mentally during a road trip."

Even though the Wildcats came out of the California road trip with more wins than they did last year, they still thought they could have done better.

"It's something we knew we were going

win of the year. Senior outfielder Jaykob Sells went 1-3 with 2 RBIs in the Wildcats 5-2 win.

"I felt really good. My change-up was working really well and I induced a lot of ground balls, keeping the defense on their feet," Fewel said.

The last day of the road trip included a couple of tight games unfavorable to the Wildcats. The Gators of San Francisco State, who the Wildcats split with two weeks ago, got the

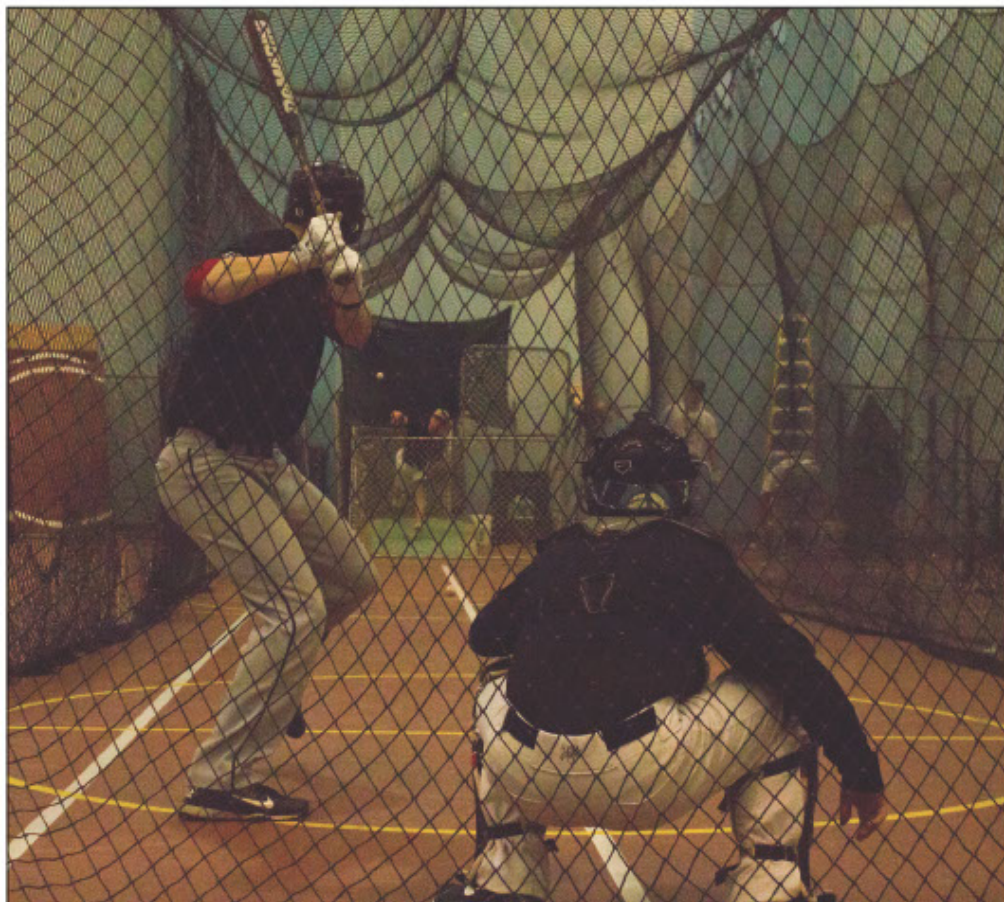
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DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

**BATTING PRACTICE** The Wildcat baseball team went through various practice drills in the Central fieldhouse last week before heading to California. Central led the GNAC in batting average and hits last year.



ZACH OLNEY/OBSERVER

**BASE HIT** Junior third baseman Kasey Bielec makes contact at the plate in a game last year. Bielec was named GNAC Baseball Player of the Week for his accomplishments against The Academy of Art.

to have to do. We had no excuses and just had to go out there and play and execute. They had to play the games as well," Fewel said.

Overall, a 3-3 road trip was not good enough for the standards. The team, although in every game, felt they should have made more plays offensively.

The Wildcats open up GNAC play

against rival Western Oregon at home on Mar. 1.

"We got some things done, but in terms of wins and losses it was disappointing," head coach Desi Storey said. "I thought we would be farther along offensively. We were in every game due to pitching and defense. In terms of offense, we are not there yet."



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# 'Cats look to break long losing streak

BY JAMES NARANJO  
Staff Reporter

On Feb. 22 the Central Washington University women's basketball team will travel to Northwest Nazarene University.

After losing on a buzzer-beating layup to NNU earlier in the year, Central looks to leave no doubt this time around.

"I really want to see our seniors go out with a win against" NNU, head coach Shawn Nelson said. "We have had them beat three different times, and we let them get off the hook."

After a poor shooting performance and a tough loss to Montana State Billings, the Wildcats are riding a nine-game losing streak.

"It's the same story," Nelson said. "We need to make better decisions and commit fewer turnovers."

After a week of rest the Wildcats should be fresh and ready to go. They may have to face NNU without senior sharpshooter Jessica VanDyke, who injured her knee early in the first half of the Seattle Pacific game last weekend and has not played since.

"I might be able to play," VanDyke said. "It's pretty sore now, so we'll wait and see what the doctor says."

The key to winning this game is the same as every game: limiting turnovers.

"We need to limit our turnovers and make better decisions," senior center Am-



SETH LONBORG/OBSERVER

**LAYIN' IT UP** Senior guard Daisy Burke shoots a layup in a game last season.

ber Moser said. "It's nothing the other team does. It's all on us, and it's mental."

The struggling Wildcats are last in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, sitting at 6-17 overall and 1-14 in conference play.

Luckily for the Wildcats, NNU isn't doing so hot. The Crusaders rank seventh in the GNAO, sitting at 13-10 this season and 6-9 in GNAO play.

Keep an eye on senior All-American Megan Hinson. Dropping 34 points while grabbing 11 rebounds in the last two games, Hinson earned herself GNAO Player of the Week honors.

These teams have nothing to lose, but one thing is true: The Wildcats are sick of losing. They must play a full 40 minutes, contain the size of NNU, and look for Moser and senior guard Ally Schmitt to make big plays.

With the Crusaders playing a 2-3 zone, Schmitt could have a lot of opportunities to expose the gaps and become a playmaker. If Schmitt can find the holes, sharpshooting junior Courtney Johnson should have a lot of open looks from the wing. Johnson is Central's second-leading scorer at 13.5 points, and is shooting 36 percent from 3-point land.

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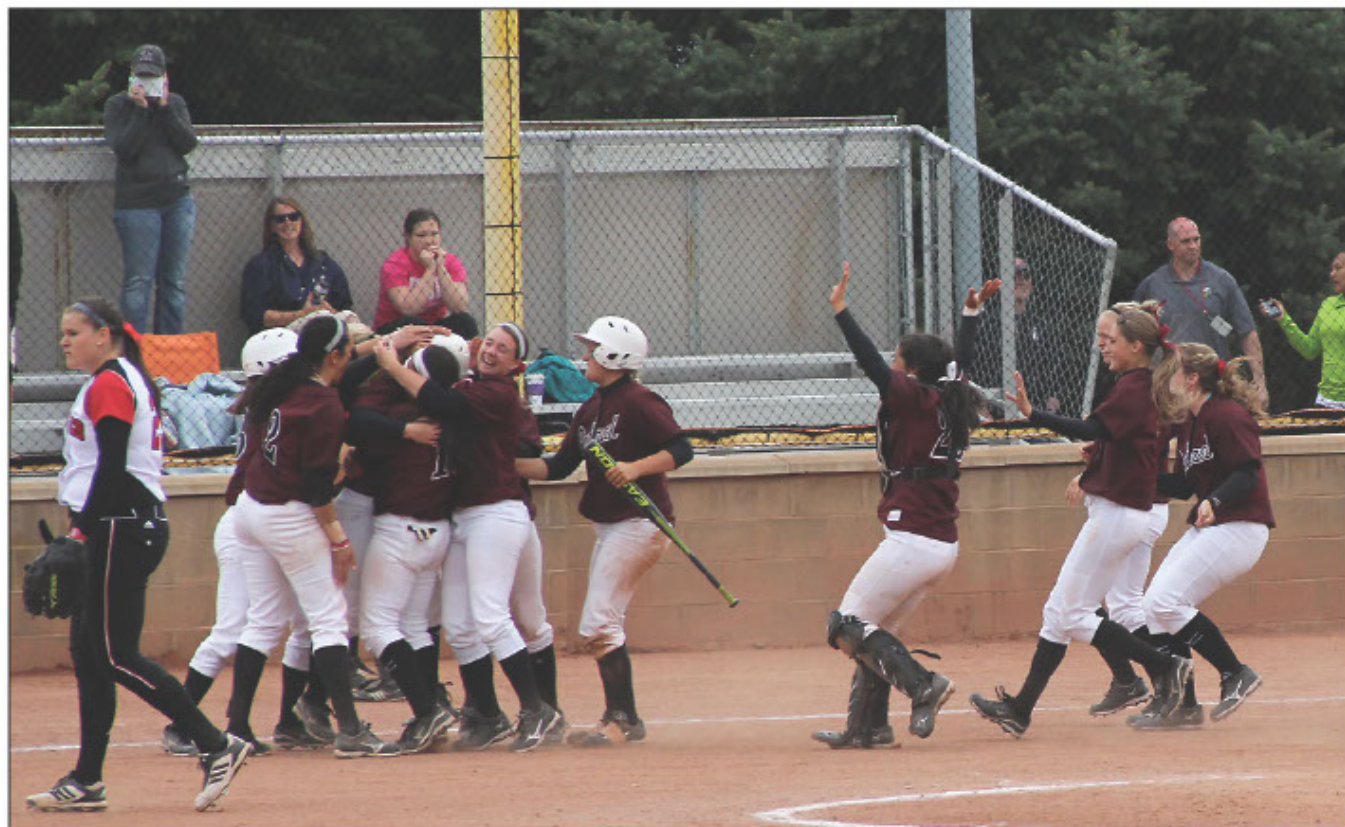
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## SOFTBALL



COURTESY OF THE CWU ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

**CELEBRATION** The Wildcats celebrate after a win against Saint Martin's University during the 2013 season. The Wildcats have had plenty to celebrate about so far this season, going 5-0 for the first time in school history.

## Central starts 5-0, sets school record

BY JULIA SANDERSON  
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University softball team came out strong this year, starting its season 5-0 for the first time in school history.

The Wildcats were able to flip things around this season after starting last season 0-5. The Wildcats are looking strong and confident this year heading into their final preseason games.

Central returns 15 letter-winning players from last season's team, the highest number of letter-winning returners in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

The Wildcats are looking to improve on last season, where they finished 20-20 overall and 13-11 in GNAO play.

"We are going to be successful. We have a lot of strong hitters, a lot of speed and our defense has improved," sophomore outfielder Michaela Haslett said.

The Wildcats are going into the season with the theme, "Why not us?" as well as the motto, "Be great."

Central wants to be a team that no other team wants to play against and is hoping to go far this season and win the national championship.

"We are looking to make it further than we have ever made it before," head coach Malory Holtman-Fletcher said. "Being home in May is not where we want to be."

Central returns the most players in the GNAO from last season, so there will be a lot of friendly competition within the team to earn a starting spot.

"One of our biggest strengths this year is the depth of our line up. We carry a large roster of 25 people, all of which could be starting players on any team in the GNAO," senior pitcher Maria Gau said. "It brings out a good competitive na-

ture because we are all wanting that starting spot. Even though it's hard and not everyone is getting to play, we are all pushing each other to be better."

The Wildcats have been putting in long hours preparing and practicing for this season. They have had countless 6 a.m. weight sessions and practiced all fall and winter long to be sure they're ready for the 2014 season.

The Wildcats' hard work is paying off this season as the team defeated all five opponents in the MSUB Desert Slinger opening tournament in Las Vegas, including two shutouts over Minor State and Western New Mexico.

Senior second baseman Jill McDaniels, who had 10 home runs last season, is already off to a great start. McDaniels has hit three of the team's seven home runs so far this season.

Freshman infielder Alyssa Egan hit a pinch-hit home run in her first at bat at the collegiate level. Sophomore third baseman Alecia Olague and sophomore shortstop Andrea Hamada also hit home runs during the Las Vegas tournament.

Central's pitchers have also been doing a phenomenal job this season. Freshman Kiana Woods and Gau will be pitchers to watch this year. Woods stumped opposing hitters throughout the Desert Slinger tournament, striking out 20 batters while allowing just two runs and five walks.

Woods was named GNAO player of the week as well as all-tournament first team in the Desert Slinger tournament.

"We saw pitching, offense and defense that show depth," Holtman-Fletcher said. She's "excited for this season. Starting strong provides confidence for the rest of the season."

Next up for Central is Holy Names,



COURTESY OF THE CWU ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

**LEAGUE LEADER** Senior pitcher Maria Gau brings the heat in a game last season. Gau led the GNAO last season with a 2.20 earned run average.

Dominican and Academy of Art in California beginning Friday, where they will play all three teams twice.

Mar. 8 will be Central's first home game, facing Simon Fraser in a double-header.

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL



COURTNEY LEWIS/OBSERVER

**TAKING HIM BASELINE** Freshman guard Marc Rodgers drives to the hole in last Thursday's 89-96 loss to Alaska Anchorage. Rodgers scored six points and dished out six assists in the loss.

## After rough home stand, Wildcats hit the road for two

After two close home losses last week the Wildcats now find themselves at sixth place in the GNAC standings with four regular season games left

BY DILLON PETERSON  
Staff Reporter

With four games left in the regular season, the Central Washington University men's basketball team has one of its biggest road trips of the year ahead of them.

Central goes on the road to face Simon Fraser University today, and Western Washington University on Saturday.

"Both teams are very good on their floors and it is going to be a huge challenge," head coach Greg Sparling said.

Central currently sits at 11-11 overall and 7-7 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play.

The Wildcats are coming off two home losses and will head on the road before coming home for the final two games in the regular season.

First, the team will travel up to Canada to play Simon Fraser today, a team they beat at home earlier in the year. The Clan are 9-13 overall and are last place in the GNAC standings at 2-12.

After Thursday's game, they will head south to Bellingham to face Western Washington University. The Vikings sit at 16-6 overall and are second place in the conference at 10-4.

Simon Fraser, who Central blew out



"It will be a tough road swing, a tough road swing no if ands about it. We need our seniors to step up and we just have to defend, defend, defend."

-Greg Sparling  
Head Coach

96-79 last time they came Ellensburg, is really good at shooting threes and spreading the floor out. They are third in the GNAC in 3-point percentage.

Even though they suffered a loss on the road, it will be a game that the Wildcats will not take lightly.

"We have to really D up because [Simon Fraser] can score and really hang with teams," sophomore guard Jordan Russell said. "They almost beat Western, so we just got to be ready to play when we go in there."



COURTNEY LEWIS/OBSERVER

**BLOCKED** Senior center Kevin Davis gets blocked going in for a dunk in last Thursday's loss to Alaska Anchorage. Davis finished the game shooting 4-5 from the field with 11 points, 10 boards and two blocks in the loss.

give Western confidence they just roll the whole game," senior center Kevin Davis said. "We owe them one at home."

Not only did Western barely come out with a win, but these two teams carry out a long rivalry. Western also only has one loss at home this year, so it's going to be a hard-fought battle for Central.

"We are just going to come ready to play, beat them and try and get our ranks up in the GNAC," Russell said.

Senior guard Richard Woodworth of Western scored 28 points last time the teams met, leading the team in points. With the Vikings being at home, the advantage will be on Western's side this time.

"It will be a tough road swing, a tough road swing no if ands about it," Sparling said. "We need our seniors to step up and we just have to defend, defend, defend."

The game may be away but Wildcat fans can watch the game at wildcatsports.com or tune into KXLE-AM 1240.

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#CWUMBASKETBALL



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Wildcats again go winless on the road

BY CHANCE WEEKS-WILLIAMS  
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University women's basketball team took to the road for the last two games but came up empty as they fell 68-47 to the Falcons of Seattle Pacific last Thursday, and then again lost to Montana State Billings 60-39 on Saturday.

This gives the Wildcats 17 losses this season, and increases the losing streak to nine games.

Against Seattle Pacific, the game was close in the first half as the Wildcats were only down by six points going into half-time. In the second half, the Falcons took charge as they outscored Central 41-28.

Junior forward Courtney Johnson led the Wildcats in scoring with 12 points and contributed three rebounds as well. Sophomore center Jasmine Parker was 100 percent from the field and finished with eight points and three rebounds.

Senior guard Jessica VanDyke played the first four minutes of the game but was unable to finish with a knee injury, which is speculated to be a torn meniscus.

"Get healthy," VanDyke said when asked what she can do for the team.

She said she has limited range of motion in her knee and it is sore.

The Wildcats grabbed 35 total rebounds, while senior center Amber Moser led the team with seven. Central also had a solid 3-point percentage, making 30 per-

cent of its shots.

"We got to run the floor," Moser said. "We got to keep our energy up for both halves."

Seattle Pacific's Katie Benson was the game's top scorer with 20 points and eight rebounds. In the paint is where Seattle Pacific did most of its damage. The Falcons had 28 points in the paint while the Wildcats only had 10. Seattle Pacific also capitalized off of 19 Central turnovers, scoring 26 points off of turnovers.

"We really shouldn't be turning the ball over, it's just decision making," head coach Shawn Nelson said.

On Saturday, the Wildcats traveled back east and played the top-ranked team in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, Montana State Billings, at 20-5 overall and 12-2 in GNAC play.

This game was closer than the score would indicate as Central and Billings were tied up at 21 points going into half-time. In the second half the Yellowjackets really earned their stripes, outscoring the Wildcats 39-18.

"I think both teams played really well defensively in the first half," Nelson said. "We continued to have a hard time scoring in the second half."

Moser and sophomore center Jasmine Parker scored in the double digits (Moser with 10, Parker 11) and each had a block while Moser finished with five rebounds and Parker had a team leading seven rebounds. Senior guard Ally Schmitt and

junior forward Courtney Johnson combined for 12 points.

The Wildcats did not help themselves by missing the majority of their free throws. They shot 30 percent from the free throw line, while Billings was 81 percent.

On Billings, guard Bobbi Knudsen led everyone in scoring, finishing with 18 points, six assists, and a steal. Three other Billings players scored eight points (Bannis, Olson, Kumm). As a team the Yellowjackets were able to force 13 Wildcat turnovers, and out rebounded the Wildcats 43-28.

The Wildcats will finish up their last road game as they head to Nampa, Idaho, to face off against the Crusaders of Northwest Nazarene.

## Great Northwest Athletic Conference Standings

- |                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| 6. Saint Martin's      | (8-6)  |
| 7. Northwest Nazarene  | (6-9)  |
| 8. Alaska Fairbanks    | (3-11) |
| 9. Western Oregon      | (3-11) |
| 10. Central Washington | (1-14) |



ZACH OLNEY/OBSERVER

**SHOOTING FOR TWO** Senior guard Ally Schmitt drives to the basket looking for 2 points.

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